

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A printing system comprising
 - a) a host device for executing programs;
 - b) an office machine having a print engine for receiving print engine ready data and based thereon for rendering images and a PC card slot for receiving PC cards, wherein the office machine does not have any printer controller circuit;
 - c) a PC card for removably coupling with the PC card slot of the office machine and for coupling with the host device, the PC card having a printer controller integrated circuit for providing substantially all printer controller functions for the office machine, the printer controller integrated circuit for receiving printer controller ready data from the host device and based thereon for generating print engine ready data, wherein the office machine requires the PC card with printer controller to be coupled thereto to render images, and wherein the printer controller may be replaced or upgraded by a user without intervention of the manufacturer of the office machine; and
 - d) printing software having an automatic update module that automatically downloads an updated version of printer controller firmware from a source external of the PC card to the printer controller of the PC card, and wherein the printer controller performs printer controller functions when the printer controller firmware is executed by the printer controller.
2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The printing system of claim 2 1 wherein the source is one of a web server and a computer readable medium.
4. (Previously presented) An office machine comprising:
 - a) a laser print engine for rendering images; and
 - b) a PC card slot coupled to the laser print engine for receiving a removable PC card that includes a printer controller for controlling substantially all printer controller functions of the office machine, wherein the PC card slot is utilized to transfer output from the printer controller to the laser print engine, wherein the office machine requires the PC card with printer controller to be coupled thereto to render images, and wherein a defective printer controller may be replaced by an operational printer controller or an out-dated printer controller may be upgraded with a new printer controller by removing the PC card with the defective or old printer controller from the office machine and by inserting a new PC card with the operational or new printer controller into the office machine; and
 - c) printing software having an automatic update module that automatically downloads an updated version of printer controller firmware from a source external of the PC card to the printer controller of the PC card, and wherein the printer controller performs printer controller functions when the printer controller firmware is executed by the printer controller.
5. (Currently Amended) The office machine of claim 4 3 further comprising:
 - d) a print engine ready data interface for coupling to a PC card and selectively receiving print engine ready data therefrom.

6. (Currently Amended) The office machine of claim 4 3 wherein the office machine is one of a laser printer, and an all-in-one office machine that includes a laser printer.
7. (Previously presented) A removable PC card for removably coupling with corresponding card slot in a laser printer comprising:
 - a) a printer controller integrated circuit for controlling substantially all printer controller functions of the printer; and
 - b) a connector having a print engine ready data interface for coupling to the laser office machine and selectively receiving print engine ready data therefrom, wherein the PC card is adapted for insertion into a corresponding PC card slot in the laser printer and wherein the printer controller integrated circuit executes printer controller firmware to provide printer controller functions to the laser printer when coupled thereto, wherein a defective printer controller may be replaced by an operational printer controller or an out-dated printer controller may be upgraded with a new printer controller by removing the PC card with the defective or old printer controller from the laser printer and by inserting a new PC card with the operational or new printer controller into the laser printer; and
 - c) printing software having an automatic update module that automatically downloads an updated version of printer controller firmware from a source external of the PC card to the printer controller integrated circuit of the PC card.

8. (Currently Amended) The removable PC card of claim 7 6 further comprising:
e) d) a connector having a printer formatter ready data interface for coupling to a host machine and selectively receiving printer formatter ready data therefrom.
9. (Previously presented) The printing system of claim 1 wherein the PC card includes a form factor that is one of a form factor of the Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) type I card, a form factor of PCMCIA type II card, and a form factor of PCMCIA type III card.
10. (Currently Amended) The removable PC card of claim 7 6 wherein the PC card includes a form factor that is one of a form factor of the Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) type I card, a form factor of PCMCIA type II card, and a form factor of PCMCIA type III card.
11. (Currently Amended) The office machine of claim 4 3 wherein the PC card slot receives PC cards having a form factor that is one of a form factor of the Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) type I card, a form factor of PCMCIA type II card, and a form factor of PCMCIA type III card.